

**MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Monday, August 22, 2011**

**301 W. Jefferson Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Phoenix, Arizona 85003**

**Board of Supervisors Conference Room**

Mr. Cassano called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:**

Don Cassano

Zuhdi Jasser, M.D.

Francisca Montoya—via telephone

Shannon Smith—via telephone

Maricopa County Supervisor Stapley, District 2

Kip Steill

**Members Excused:**

Brian Spicker

**Members Absent**

Audrey Adamic

Andrew Ingram

Ex-Officio: Bob England, M.D.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Don Cassano advised that if anyone from the public is present at the meeting today who would like an opportunity to speak, a Speaker Request Form is available and must be filled out prior to addressing the Board of Health. The Board of Health cannot take action on but only discuss questions from the public under the Call to the Public section.

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Approval of the April 25, 2011 BOH Minutes:**

**-Mr. Cassano**

Supervisor Stapley motioned to approve the April 25, 2011 BOH minutes. Dr. Jasser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Fee Waivers**

**-Ms. Taylor**

Ms. Taylor presented 23 fee waiver applications to the Board of Health. The department of Environmental Services does not object to any fee waiver application.

Chair Cassano asked if there were any fee waivers that the board would like to discuss, if not he requested taking a vote on all of them at one time.

Mr. Steill had a concern with St. Vincent de Paul being a very large organization and having looked at their fee schedule and the size of their organization; he wouldn't support approving a fee waiver for this organization but will go with the majority.

Supervisor Stapley made the motion to accept all fee waivers with the exception of fee waiver 5 for the St. Vincent de Paul organization. Dr. Jasser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Stapley made the comment that waivers have traditionally been granted to organization such as this because they are a not for profit organization that helps provide a very vital part in the community. He feels this is another contribution that the county has to offer to the community.

Supervisor Stapley made the motion to accept fee waiver number 5 for St. Vincent de Paul. Mr. Steill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Clarity of Authority of Executive Committee**

**-Mr. Cassano**

Chair Cassano mentioned that because the board has had difficulty obtaining a quorum and now that we have moved to quarterly meetings, we still find it difficult to get a quorum. We would like to discuss that if there is no quorum of the board but that there is a quorum of the executive committee of the board, that the executive committee would be granted the authority to take action on action items.

Dr. Bob spoke to provide additional information. He said that there have been times that we have failed to make quorum but the members that you have appointed to the executive committee were present. In order to move routine business items, we were wondering if the full board would like to grant the executive committee the authority to take action on those items when there is no quorum present but there is a quorum of the executive committee.

Mr. Steill liked it and said he would approve it.

Supervisor Stapley asked who sat on the executive committee. Don Cassano, Audrey Adamic, Brian Spicker, Dr. Jasser. If this is a small bylaw amendment then we can proceed with doing this.

Shannon Smith said that she feels we need to address the issue of attendance. It is disheartening that we cannot get a quorum even by phone.

Dr. Bob mentioned that the board is now up to two vacancies, an at large member and a district 2 member.

Dr. Jasser asked if there was an attendance requirement. The attendance requirement does not help create a quorum easily.

Supervisor Stapley made the motion to have legal counsel take this suggestion of having the executive committee have authority to take action on action items in the absence of a full quorum of the entire board of health to board of supervisors to see if it required a bylaw amendment so that the board of supervisors could approve such an amendment and that it thing be brought back to the board of health. Shannon Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Public Health Report**

**-Dr. England**

**Dr. Bob England presented the following matters to the Board.**

#### **Human Resources**

There was a RIF (Reduction In Force) today. We lost 1.3 million dollars from our WIC program which is our largest single program that we have in the department. Those cuts were multiple. They were budgetary cuts from the federal government and our numbers have been down and WIC is a reimbursement program. It is based on meeting your numbers and our numbers have been down for awhile. We have tried different avenues to try and increase our numbers. There is no reason in a downing economy like this we should have fewer clients. We are now working with DES to try to increase numbers.

You may have heard about the court case that allowed the continuation of cutting services to childless adults with ACCCHS coverage. This has the greatest impact on our Healthcare for Homeless program, the one program that we bill ACCCHS significantly.

**Infrastructure**

Our vitals office is now open in east Mesa. We now have three sites for vital records. This location is strategically located between an immunization site and a DES site to make it as easy as possible for the community to get too.

Our performance improvement and policy efforts are both going forward. You have heard me talk about this before but I want to emphasize that we are well underway in many aspects of our performance improvement activities. We are doing what we call the local public health standards improvement assessment. It is a process in which you get lots of outside stakeholder input of the quality of the overall public health system.

In terms of the policy office is that we are moving the department from direct services to policy changes and systems change. A lot of our programs have a piece of this. So, the challenging part of this is trying to figure out how to coordinate these efforts to reach consensus on what are priority changes are going to be.

Chair Cassano asked how many employees were RIF'd today. There were 21.5 positions that were eliminated but only 4 of those positions were vacant and so only 4 people were RIF'd. Those 4 all have options. They can take any position that is available where they meet the requirements at or below their pay or they can bump someone who is a probationary employee, temp or contract employee.

**Other**

John Kolman, Director of Environmental Services, asked the Board's guidance on one of their programs that they currently offer. It is called Family Day Cares. It is not a delegated program from the state nor is it a statutory mandate. It is a contract that Maricopa County actually enters in with individual contractors and agencies to look at alternative child care homes. The issue that we have now is that there is not statutory requirement and no agency to address compliant issues that we may find in the homes. We find that it is a burden upon the department and we feel that the individuals could be better served by contracting with private agencies to do the inspections. We have talked to ADHS and other agencies. Other counties do have contracts while others do not. Currently, we charge about \$105 per inspection. We do about 1,000 inspections a year. We would like to let the community handle it. Once we are no longer a part of this project, our employees would be able to enter in with individual contracts with these family day cares. We just feel that with no statutory mandates or responsibility to fall it is very difficult to go into these homes. For instance, we went into one home last year and they were keeping poisonous snakes. It is very hard for us to deny an inspection when there is no standard that says you are not supposed to have poisonous snakes in the same area where you have children although common sense would tell you that. If the board decides that this is a value to the community and would like to see us to continue, we would then like to go ahead and get direction as to what rules we can set into place to make these types of places and bring them under permits so that they are applied uniformly across the county.

These inspections are required by the federal government that is passed through the state as part of the Arizona Education Child Care food program. They just require a local authority to approve them for a fire and health inspection. Local authority would be any one who is an RS would qualify.

Is this more of a drain than it is generating any kind of income? Yes, this is correct. We only generate about \$120,000 for this program and right now our revenues in environmental services are close to 19 million dollars. So, for the amount of inspections that we are conducting and the fact that there is no firm guidelines to what we are inspecting, what we should be finding, etc,

we feel that it is demoralizing to our staff, our staff are taken away from restaurant inspections or other permitted inspections that they could be doing.

Do the cities have such individuals that would qualify to do this? No, just the county has local registered sanitarian. What do other counties do? Coconino and Yavapai use other private agencies. I think we are the only large one that does it by contract. Are these agencies required to have these inspections? They are required to have them to receive reimbursement for their food program. Of the 1,000 that we inspect, they will have to take action or they will not be reimbursed.

Dr. England mentioned about the Child Care health consultation program that is not a mandated, licensure, permit program. It is like an advisory, educational which we have tried, mostly unsuccessful, family day cares. I wouldn't mind at all if we can get some educational stuff to the day cares that John is referring too. John said that he could give all of the contact information to Dr. England. John also suggested that maybe through their consultation program they could offer the agency information to get their inspection.

How long have these inspections been going on? A very long time. I would say a better part of 15 years.

We have a consensus that this be brought back as a regular agenda item for the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Supervisor Stapley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Steill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.